

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

ORDER NO. 79-168

NPDES NO. CA0006246

REISSUING WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR:

GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY  
VALLECITOS NUCLEAR CENTER  
PLEASANTON, ALAMEDA COUNTY

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, finds that:

1. The Regional Board on December 17, 1974, adopted Order No. 74-201 prescribing waste discharge requirements and compliance time schedules for General Electric Company, Vallecitos Nuclear Center, hereinafter called the discharger. On November 16, 1976, the Board amended Order No. 74-201 by adopting Order No. 76-127. Discharger has submitted an application for reissuance of its NPDES permit (NPDES Standard Form C) dated June 28, 1979.
2. The Board, in April 1975, adopted a Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay Basin. The Plan includes water quality limits which shall be maintained in the surface waters of the Alameda Creek watershed above Niles, prohibits the discharge of any wastewater which has particular characteristics of concern to beneficial uses into any nontidal water, and prohibits the direct discharge of wastewater during the portion of the year when no natural flow occurs in Alameda Creek above Niles.
3. The waste is discharged into a drainage ditch which discharges into Vallecitos Creek, a nontidal water of the United States.
4. Discharger has complied with the requirements of Order No. 76-127 by disposing all sanitary wastes on land at all times, and by submitting a feasibility report in June 1977 on land disposal of its industrial wastes. Discharger has requested that it be permitted to continue year-round discharges of industrial wastewater to Vallecitos Creek, claiming that its wastewater quality is better than that of natural waters found in the area. Discharger's major nuclear facility, known as GETR (General Electric Test Reactor) has been shut down since October 27, 1977, and it has not yet been determined whether it will re-start. Industrial wastewater flows are currently about .083 mgd - they were about 0.21 mgd with GETR operating.
5. Effluent limitation and toxic and pretreatment effluent standards established pursuant to Sections 208(b), 301, 304, and 307 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and amendments thereto are applicable to the discharge.

6. The Board has notified the discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent to reissue waste discharge requirements for the discharge for a limited period, not to exceed six months, and has provided them with an opportunity for a public hearing and an opportunity to submit their written views and recommendations.
7. The Board is not required to comply with the provisions of Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 21100) of Division 13 of the Public Resources Code (California Environmental Quality Act) as this order is an NPDES permit and is exempt from such provisions per Section 13389 of the Water Code.
8. The Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharge.
9. This Order shall serve as a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit pursuant to Section 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, or amendments thereto, and shall take effect at the end of ten days from date of hearing provided the Regional Administrator of the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency has no objections.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the NPDES permit contained in Order No. 74-201 is reissued and amended as follows:

Effluent Limitations

1. The following is added as Effluent Limitation A.8.d:

"d. No waste shall be released to Vallecitos Creek until after its compliance with radiological quality limitations, as defined in Sections 8.a or 8.b, above has been confirmed by analyses and computation."

Provisions

The following provision is added as Provision C.10:

"10. This Order expires May 27, 1980. This Board will consider adoption of a revised permit for this discharge by that date. All terms and conditions contained in Order No. 74-201 as amended by Order No. 76-127 shall remain in full force and effect without modification, except as noted herein."

I, Fred H. Dierker, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, on December 18, 1979.

FRED H. DIERKER  
Executive Officer